

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /039 W

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R 060700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, FI

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS WIN LEATHER AND RUBBER UNIONS

MERGER VOTE

1. THE LONG PROCESS OF REUNIFYING THE FINNISH  
LABOR MOVEMENT AFTER ITS IDEOLOGICAL SPLIT IN  
1960'S IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. THE LAST REMAINING  
"PARALLEL" UNIONS IN FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION  
(SAK) ARE TO BE MERGED DECEMBER 15 IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
RESULTS OF A VOTE BY FINLAND'S LEATHER AND RUBBER  
WORKERS' UNIONS. IN NOVEMBER VOTING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
CANDIDATES RECEIVED 3,999 VOTES AND COMMUNISTS 4,994  
GIVING THEM 111 DELEGATES TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 89.  
SIXTY-NINE PERCENT PARTICIPATION IS RELATIVELY HIGH  
FOR SUCH ELECTIONS. COMMUNIST VICTORY WAS NOT A  
SURPRISE SINCE "RUBBER AND LEATHER WORKERS "UNION"  
THEY CONTROLLED OUTNUMBERED PURELY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
"LEATHER AND RUBBER BRANCH TRADE UNION" BY THREE TO  
ONE. NEW CHAIRMAN OF COMBINED UNION WILL ALMOST  
CERTAINLY BE "STALINIST" COMMUNIST VAINO HUHTAMAKI,  
WHO LEADS EXISTING COMMUNIST UNION. SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATS WILL BE GIVEN UNION SECRETARY'S JOB AND  
REMAINING POSITIONS WILL BE DIVIDED PROPOR-

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TIONALLY.

2. OF 24 SIGNIFICANT UNIONS IN SAK COMMUNISTS NOW  
CONTROL THREE: 95,000 MEMBER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS  
UNION, 40,000 MEMBER FOOD PROCESSINGWORKERS UNION  
AND NEW RUBBER AND LEATHER WORKERS UNION WHICH WILL  
HAVE NEARLY 20,000 MEMBERS ALTHOUGH ONLY 13,000  
WERE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN RECENT ELECTION. ONE OF  
MOST EMOTIONAL ISSUES IN RECENT FINNISH LABOR POLITICS  
HAS THUS BEEN LAID TO RESET AND NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
LEADERSHIP OF SAK (SEE HELSINKI 2455) IS IN A STRONGER  
POSITION THAN WHEN CENTRAL FEDERATIONS WERE MERGED  
IN 1969.  
KREHBIEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, LABOR UNIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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